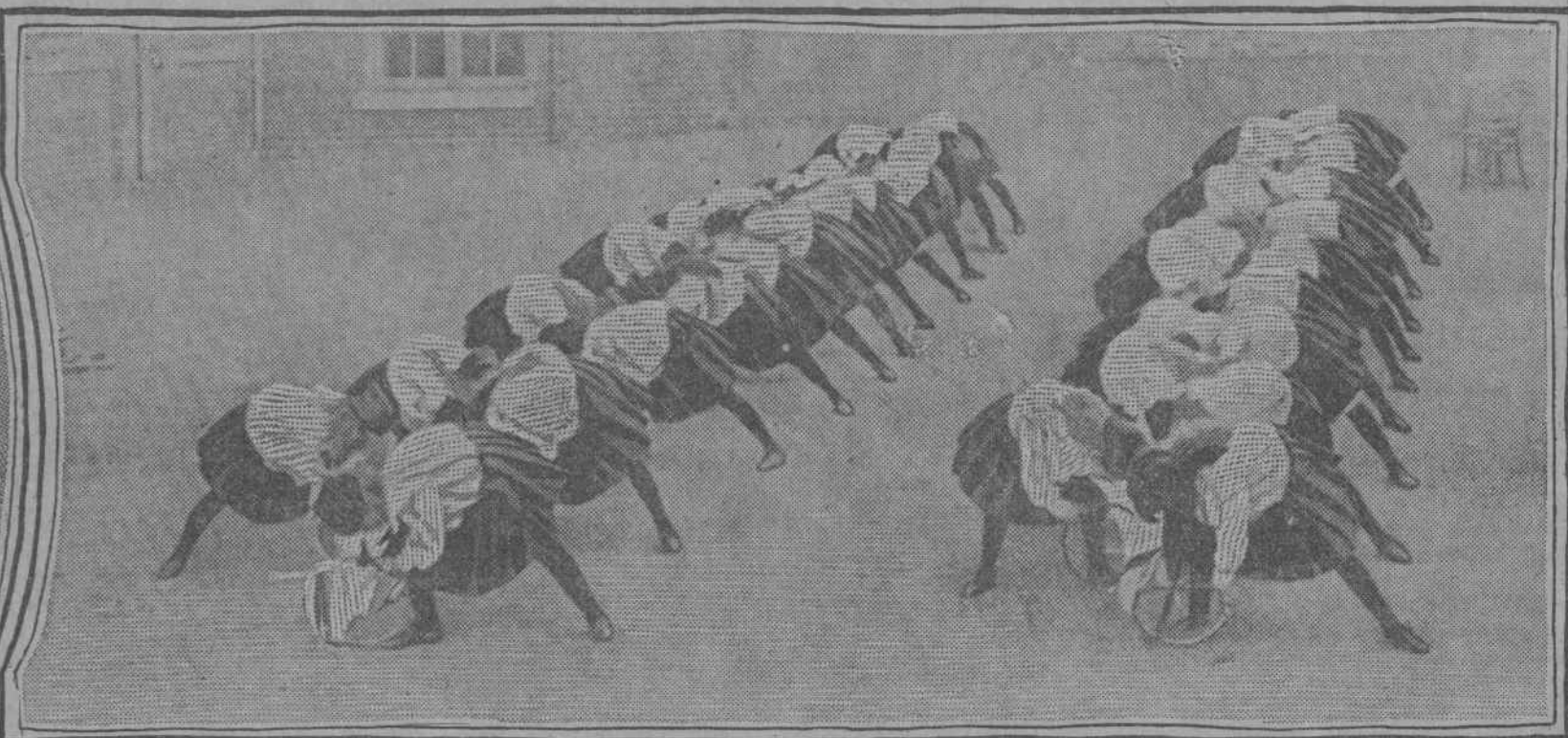


Finest Athletic Club in the World for Chicago's Multimillionairesses.

MME.
LILJENSTOLPE,
ATHLETIC
INSTRUCTOR



This is from an instantaneous photograph showing one of the Millionairesses' Classes Exercising in the Gymnasium.

CHICAGO has the finest athletic club in America for women.

Its members are the wives of the multimillionaires of the West.

It is the first club that American women have ever organized solely for athletics.

Mrs. Philip D. Armour is the president of the club. Other prominent members are Mrs. William McKinley, Mrs. Ogden Armour, Mrs. J. H. Eckles, Mrs. Emma Blaine, Mrs. Potter Palmer, Mrs. Charles Hennrich and Mrs. Cyrus Hall McCormick. Although the membership list includes all the society leaders of Chicago, the club is not a social organization from any point of view. It has but one object: To promote health and beauty. And no time and expense have been spared to carry out this purpose in the most scientific and luxurious fashion.

The club is as superb in its execution as it is unique in its purposes.

The mere remodeling of the building cost nearly \$100,000.

The facilities for physical exercise are well, there are none finer in the land.

High, high-ceilinged rooms have been fitted up for all sorts of outdoor sports.

The immense gymnasium room is two stories high, and has a running balcony.

A \$10,000 swimming pool is of rare marble.

A most luxurious Turkish bath department is in blue and white tiles and mirrored walls.

The tea room is finished in Flemish oak and the library is hung with beautiful old tapestries.

Besides opportunities for physical training there is nothing in the way of perfect grooming that cannot be accomplished in this wonderful clubhouse.

The more arduous the social duties of the members the more important do they find the scientific physical training to be gained at a club. The woman who has on hand a nerve racking round of social duties for the afternoon and evening will often be found at the club as early as 9 o'clock in the morning.

In the first place she enters with the greatest spirit of enthusiasm in the course of gymnastics prescribed for her special needs by the athletic director. This is followed by the routine at the Turkish bath or a plunge in the swimming pool, as she prefers. Then she is massaged and pedicured, her hair is massaged and her hair is dressed; and all by the most expert women and in charming rooms specially fitted up for the purpose.

About 2 o'clock, looking perhaps five years younger than when she arrived at the club in the morning, she rests for a few minutes in the tea room or lounges in the library or chats with friends in the drawing room.

The membership limit is 500, and the pop-

ularity of the club is attested by the fact that already there is a long waiting list. The entrance fee of the club is \$100, and the annual dues are \$40, and as there are no social or literary features in connection with the club, the women escape the usual list of "extras" which make the average club woman's life a burden.

Something of the enthusiasm and the perseverance and patience with which the Chicago women have pushed this club movement to its success is indicated in the fact that it is less than a year since the first suggestion of the club was presented to Mrs. Armour. At the recent opening of the club house, at No. 150 Michigan avenue, the most distinguished literary and social people of the West were entertained in the perfectly appointed rooms.

At present the club is occupying a remodelled, commodious building overlooking the lake. But from the first it has been and beauty are the rewards promised for

the members' intention to build a club house for their own use, especially adapted to carry out the finest system of physical training for women in the world.

The present club house, although less elaborate and spacious than the permanent building will be, is, nevertheless, perfect in its fittings and admirably arranged for the comfort and convenience of the members.

The gymnastic department, which is complete in every detail, is under the personal direction of Mrs. Charlotte Banwell Murray. Mrs. Murray studied at the Baron Passet School, at Boston, and is a post-graduate in medical gymnastics, massage, pathology and psychology.

The object of the gymnastic training, as taught by Mrs. Murray, is not merely to convert Chicago society women into keen-

ness editions of Sandow, with abnormal strength and unsightly muscles. Health-

ness and beauty are the rewards promised for

the hours of hard athletic work practised under her guidance.

The Swedish system of gymnastics has been adopted. The rhythmic exercises are conducted by music and the results are symmetrical muscular development, grace

of carriage, a fine poise (which is the secret of good style), and a flexibility of the entire body; in fact, the perfection of physical culture, which is only another word for beauty.

A part of Mrs. Murray's work is to measure and examine every candidate for physical training, laying out for them what she considers the proper course of training. She has special medical gymnastic work for cases of spinal curvature and rheumatism and many other serious ailments, and her prescriptions are as carefully carried out as those of the most eminent physicians in the land would be.

There is a special department in Mrs.

Murray's work for children, where exercises always graceful and musical are adapted to tiny bodies and where an infinite variety of interesting movements are taught.

Fancy dances are an important feature of the children's classes, the Gilbert system having been selected because of its great number of beautiful steps and poses and its graceful harmonious movements.

A membership fee from the mother of a family conveys all the privileges of the club to her daughters, young or old.

Fencing is also taught at the club, bowling, basket ball, the usual gymnasium work and swimming.

Nothing finer than the swimming room has ever been planned for an athletic club.

The pool is sixty-five feet long and eighteen feet wide, and the tank, esplanade and the

perfection of the pool are of pure white marble. There are mirrored walls

and ceilings framed in electric lights; there are cozy corner seats, lounging benches of

marble, and palms and ferns everywhere.

The swimming lessons are under the supervision of Miss Liljenstolpe of the Royal

Institute of Sweden, who is famous throughout Europe for her strength and

her prowess in the water. She is a young woman, pretty and graceful. The swim-

ming lessons are a part of the study in grace, and as a beautifier of the complexion swimming has no equal, according to the Swedish theory. Miss Liljenstolpe

also instructs in other athletic exercises.

The arrangements for the Turkish bath

department are most luxurious. The retic-

ing room is beautifully done in blue and white. Around this room and opening from

it are twenty small rooms, lined with mirrors and fitted up with dressing tables and

lounge beds. The tubs and bathtubs for the electric baths are the finest manufac-

tured.

The parlor and library are in the front of the building, and the low swinging win-

dows open to a beautiful view of Lake Michigan. The library fittings are gold and

brown, and green is used for the parlor.

The manager's office and the large recep-

tion rooms are on the main floor, and both are finished and furnished in solid mahog-

any. The walls of the reception rooms are green and the carpets and hangings are

crimson velvet.

Women all over the country will be in-

terested in the stand the members of the club have taken on the subject of spirit-

uous liquors. Neither wines, beer nor liquors of any description are permitted in the es-

tablishment, nor are the members allowed to play cards in any part of the clubhouse.

This stricture at first met with considerable opposition, but Mrs. Armour, who led the total abstinence party, won the day.

The club, as it now stands, has the cor-

dial indorsement of the best men and women in the country. President McKinley, in his

letter to the club, in which he announces Mrs. McKinley's decision to become a

member, said:

"Mrs. McKinley is pleased to accept honorary membership in the Women's Athletic Club, of Chicago. She is deeply interested and in sympathy with the work of the club." Both Mr. and Mrs. McKinley were

entertained by the club during their recent Western tour.

The whole movement has met with the hearty co-operation of distinguished physi-

cians. Dr. Sara Hackett Stevenson, was among the first to take bonds.

DE WOLF HOPPER

By DE WOLF HOPPER.

LONDON, Dec. 2.—I have had the honor of meeting the Prince of Wales, and I must say that he impressed me very favorably.

I was invited, along with my colleagues of "El Capitan" company, to do something to help out Mrs. Brown-Potter's chantant for the benefit of Lady Randolph Churchill's hospital ship, the Maine.

The entertainment took place in a reception room at the Hotel Cecil. Only a low platform was provided for the performers, and the room was crowded with people right up to the very edge of the stage.

Well, you know bashfulness is not one of my most marked characteristics, but I did feel a little of it when I found myself on that makeshift stage with all those people right under my nose. It was quite different from being on a real stage.

All the Four Hundred of England, most of them Lords and Ladies, were there. They were all standing up except the Prince of Wales and two or three other royalties, who sat in the front row.

I lined up the company on the platform and stood out in front of them to sing the "El Capitan" march.

When we got together on the platform nobody applauded until the Prince gave two or three little glove taps. Then all society followed his example and applauded in the same way.

It seemed ages before that orchestra leader tuned up. He says he wasn't a minute. I never felt so big and awkward in my life. I didn't know what to do with my hands and feet. "Tod Sloane, who stood near by, told me he never felt so small. I wish he could have changed places with me.

The song lasted about two minutes. Imagine how sixty voices, with an orchestra of forty pieces, sounded in that little room! You couldn't hear yourself think.

When it was all over I saw Mrs. Potter standing by the side of the Prince and beckoning to me. I wondered what was up



"MR. HOPPER, SIR," SAID MRS. POTTER.



TOD SLOANE NEVER FELT SO SMALL.

AND THE PRINCE

now. I stepped down and was informed that I had been "com-

manded" to meet the Prince of Wales.

There I was advancing to meet the Prince with 800 British aristocrats all staring at me with a stony British stare. They could not have stared more if I had worn blue pajamas, a coat of mail and a halo of red fire. I tell you I was scared.

Mrs. Potter introduced me to the Prince, saying, simply:

"Mr. Hopper, sir."

In my agitation I took off my wig when I bowed, but promptly replaced it. This seemed to produce a pleasant impression.

"I have not had the pleasure of seeing you and your company before, Mr. Hopper," said the Prince, "because I have had such a tremendous pressure of engagements lately."

"Well, sir, I hope you heard us just now," I replied, alluding playfully to the noise we had just made.

That seemed to please His Royal Highness, for he smiled and gave three little chuckles of a regular royal kind, fine double bass chuckles.

"You Americans certainly are great fun makers, Mr. Hopper," resumed the Prince. "It makes me feel twenty years younger to see a good company of American comedians. The responsibilities of my position sometimes weigh heavily upon me, and nothing does me more good than a hearty laugh."

Feeling encouraged by the Prince's genial manner, I replied:

"I have known what it is to be a king myself. I have been a king of Zanzibar and other interesting places in comic opera. Even there the responsibilities are considerable."

The Prince again laughed heartily, being evidently pleased by my frankness and unconventionality.

"I wish I could go to New York and make the round of your theatres and places of entertainment," said the Prince in the course of our conversation. "It has always been one of my greatest desires to visit America again, but I am sorry to say I do not see any definite prospect of doing so."

DE WOLF HOPPER



"I NEVER FELT SO BIG AND AWKWARD."



"I NEVER FELT SO BIG AND AWKWARD."

OUR "400" WILL APE THE ENGLISH SOCIETY CUSTOM WITH CHRISTMAS THEATRICALS.

UNDER the patronage of the most fashionable matrons, some of the handsomest young women in New York society are going to appear upon the amateur dramatic stage.

The entertainments will be given by "The Strollers," an eminent organization devoted to the drama, art and letters. Its members will assume the male roles in the forthcoming entertainment.

This will be given in the theatre of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, on the evenings of December 11 to December 16. The profits will go to various charities.

The Strollers will present a musical comedy entitled "The Lady from Chicago," written and composed by members of the club. It purports to deal with the strange actions of the peculiar but interesting Ziegler family, of Chicago, in their assault upon New York society. Many persons will imagine that they detect in this comedy a reference to things that have really happened.

One of the most distinguished figures among the performers will be Miss Emily Hoffman. She will impersonate Juanita de Vallombrosa, a dancing girl. Her performance will consist entirely of dancing. She is a very accomplished dancer in the Spanish style, and connoisseurs say that she surpasses Carmenita in skill as completely as she does in appearance.

Miss Hoffman is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Hoffman, of New York and Newport. She is brilliantly handsome. Her Spanish dancing at society entertainments has already won fame. She danced the "coco" at Mrs. Cooper Hewitt's and elsewhere.

The two beautiful sisters, Miss Frances and Miss Grace Hoyt, will excite admiration as Imogene Michigan Ziegler and Penchy Ziegler. Miss Elizabeth Donaldson, another young society beauty, will appear as Geraldine Carstairs, an actress.

Among the men players the Duke of Manchester is conspicuous by reason of his rank. It will be the first time that an Eng-



MISS E. HOFFMAN

MISS FRANCES HOYT

MISS ELIZABETH DONALDSON

MISS GRACE HOYT

lish Duke has appeared in amateur theatricals in New York.

A leading role will be taken by Mr. Edward Fales Howard, an amateur actor, whose high talents as a comedian have been recognized by the most discriminating theatrical managers.

The following is the complete cast:

Mrs. Ziegler, the lady from Chicago, Miss Carrie E. Perkins
Kenophon Ypionanti Ziegler, only her husband, William T. Wood
Imogene Michigan Ziegler, her daughter, Miss P. M. Hoyt
Penchy Ziegler, her daughter, Miss Grace Hoyt
Auditorium Lakefront Ziegler, her son, Mr. Cushing

Mr. Livingston, whose father is president of the New York, Chicago & San Francisco Railroad, Edward Fales Howard

Mr. Van Rensselaer, his friend, The Duke of Manchester

Gwendolin Carstairs, an actress, Miss Elizabeth Donaldson

Juanita de Vallombrosa, the dancing girl, Miss Emily Hoffman

Duc de la Tremouille (Bertrand), Louis R. Motzfeldt

Comte Gaudin de Montaigne, Penchy Ziegler

Penchy Ziegler, her daughter, Miss Grace Hoyt

Cyril Lisewait, a shipowner, William T. Wood

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